

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of providing a service in a communication system, wherein the service is provided by an external content provider to a user through the communication system,
the method comprising the steps of:

providing price information associated with communication through the communication system to the content provider;

receiving from the content provider providing to the user as a function of price, price information related to a plurality of options related to values of at least one communications parameter to be used during the provision of service,

providing to the user as a function of price the plurality of options for selection therefrom by the user; and

receiving a selection of one of the plurality of options from the user.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one communications parameter is related to the quality of service perceived by the user.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method according to claim 2 any preceding claim, wherein said service is an information service.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method according to claim 2 any preceding claim, wherein said communication system is a radio communication system.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method according to claim 2 any preceding claim, wherein said at least one communications parameter includes at least one from the group of

- a) bandwidth,
- b) delay,
- c) error rate, and
- d) communications route.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein the function of price is determined using price information input by the ~~external~~ content provider and price information input by one or more further service providers forming a communications route between the ~~external~~ content provider and the user.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 7, wherein the function of price is determined using stored price information data obtained from an earlier provision of service employing the corresponding values of said at least one communications parameter.

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Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 7, wherein the function of price is determined in real-time using currently applicable price information.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method according to claim 7 any preceding claim, wherein simulation means are provided by the ~~external~~ content provider for use by the user to carry out simulation of the service that would be provided according to an intended selection by the user.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 10, wherein availability of said simulation means is indicated to the user in association with provision of the plurality of options, and said user can acquire said simulation means via the communication system.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 11 any preceding claim wherein, after selection by the user, a sample service corresponding to the selection is provided to the user for a limited duration.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing a service in a communication system, wherein the service is provided by an external content provider to a user,
the apparatus comprising:

means for providing price information associated with communication through the communication system to the content provider;

means for receiving from the content provider means for providing to the user as a function of price, price information related to a plurality of options related to values of at least one communications parameter to be used during the provision of service;

means for providing to the user as a function of price the plurality of options[[;]] for selection therefrom by the user; and

means for receiving a selection of one of the plurality of options from the user.

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Claim 14 (original): An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said at least one communications parameter is related to the quality of service perceived by the user.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said service is an information service.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An apparatus according to any of claims 13[[-15]], wherein said communication system is a radio communication system.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An apparatus according to any of claims 13[[-16]], wherein said at least one communications parameter includes at least one from the group of

- a) bandwidth,
- b) delay,
- c) error rate, and
- d) communications route.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the function of price is determined using price information input by the external content provider and price information input by one or more further service providers forming a communications route between the external content provider and the user.

Claim 20 (original): An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the function of price is determined using stored price information data obtained from an earlier provision of service employing the corresponding values of said at least one communications parameter.

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Claim 21 (original): An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the function of price is determined in real-time using currently applicable price information.

Claim 22 (currently amended) An apparatus according to any-of claims 13[[-21]], wherein simulation means are provided by the external-content provider for use by the user to carry out simulation of the service that would be provided according to an intended selection by the user.

Claim 23(original): An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein availability of said simulation means is indicated to the user in association with provision of the plurality of options, and said user can acquire said simulation means via the communication system.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An apparatus according to any-of claims 13[[-23]], wherein, after selection by the user, a sample service corresponding to the selection is provided to the user for a limited duration.